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ROYTON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL INTERIM
REPORT

of the
Medical Officer of Health
and
Sanitary Inspector
for the Year

1942

ROYTON

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ROYTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman of the Council 1942-43:

Councillor J. SMETHURST, J.P.

HEALTH COMMITTEE 1942-43.

Councillor A. Cocker, Chairman.

Councillor H. Perkins, Vice-Chairman.

Councillor A. Barker.

Councillor W. Butterfield.

Councillor W. Downie.

Councillor F. Ford.

Councillor G. Hasty, J.P.

Councillor A. Howard.

Councillor H. Howarth.

Councillor T. Hudson.

Councillor R. A. Leeming, J.P.

Councillor T. H. Lowe.

Councillor J. Shepherd.

Councillor J. W. Smethurst, J.P.

Councillor J. Smethurst, J.P.

Clerk of the Council:

A. Donald Ogden, Esq.

Acting Medical Officer of Health:

Hedley Boardman, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:

E. Dunsmore, M.R. San. I., M.S.I.A.

Clerk:

Mrs. I. Leader.

INTERIM REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1942.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ROYTON.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration a further Interim Report which has been prepared according to the instructions of the Minister of Health, upon the health of the district during the year ending 31st December, 1942.

During the year re-organisation of the Casualty Section of Civil Defence Services was necessary as a result of the demands of the expanding war industries for man-power.

Sincere thanks are due to the lady voluntary workers for their help at the Child Welfare Centre. In spite of increasingly heavy and varied demands on their time, they have continued to give their valuable services which are helping us through a difficult time.

I am grateful to the Sanitary Inspector for his unstinted and efficient services, not only in matters of Public Health, but also in the many ancillary wartime duties for which the Health Department is responsible.

To the Clerk, the Surveyor and all other Officials, I offer my sincere thanks for their willing assistance and effective co-operation.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

HEDLEY BOARDMAN,
Acting Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT, 1942.

Table I —Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in Acres	2,149
Population (Census 1931)	16,689
Registrar-General's Estimated resident population 1942 ...	13,920
Number of inhabited houses (Census 1931)	4,370
End of 1942, according to the Rate books... ..	4,781
Rateable value £81,723.	
Sum represented by a penny rate..... £317.	

Table II—Vital Statistics, 1942.

Live Births	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	204	99	105
Illegitimate ...	4	3	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	208	102	106
Still Births	4	2	2
Deaths (all ages) ...	180	88	92

Table III—Causes of Deaths during 1942.

	MALES	FEMALES
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	0	0
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0	2
3. Scarlet Fever	0	0
4. Whooping Cough	0	0
5. Diphtheria	0	0
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	6	3
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	0
8. Syphilitic Diseases	1	0
9. Influenza	0	0
10. Measles	0	0
11. Ac : polio-myel : and polio-enceph :	1	0
12. Ac : inf : enceph :	0	0
13. Cancer of b : cav : and oesoph (m) } uterus (f) }	4	6
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	4	2
15. Cancer of Breast	0	2
16. Cancer of all other sites	7	12
17. Diabetes	1	1
18. Intracranial vasc : lesions	3	4
19. Heart Disease	24	26
20. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	3	1
21. Bronchitis	9	8
22. Pneumonia	2	2
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	0	0
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	0	0
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	1	2
26. Appendicitis	0	0
27. Other Digestive Diseases	1	1
28. Nephritis	3	1
29. Puer : & post-abortion : sepsis	0	0
30. Other Maternal causes	0	1
31. Premature Birth	0	1
32. Con: Mal: Birth Inj: Infant: Dis:	3	3
33. Suicide	1	0
34. Road Traffic Accidents	2	0
35. Other violent causes	1	1
36. All other causes	10	13
All causes	88	92

Table IV.—Deaths classified in Age Groups.

Under one year	16
1 — 2 years	1
2 — 5 „	—
5 — 15 „	3
15 — 25 „	5
25 — 45 „	14
45 — 65 „	64
65 — 75 „ ...	47
75 years and upwards...	30
<hr/>	
Total ...	180

Table V.—Infantile Deaths and Causes.

Under one year.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under one year.									
	Under 1 Week	1 and under 2 weeks	2 and under 3 weeks	3 and under 4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1 and under 3 months	3 and under 6 months	6 and under 9 months	9 and under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
Bronchitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... ..	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	1	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	3
Congenital Debility... ..	2	...	1	1	4	4	...	...	...	8
Premature Birth										
Malformations etc.										
Diarrhoea, &c. ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Other Violence ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Total	3	...	2	1	6	9	1	...	...	16

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Table VI —Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1942.

DISEASES.	CASES NOTIFIED.														Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to the District.	
	Total Cases at all ages.	YEARS												Total Cases removed to Hospital from Home		
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over			Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	(a) 30	1	..	3	1	3	12	3	5	2	..	..	..	(b) ..	(c) 15	(d) ..
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup).	19	..	..	1	3	..	9	5	..	1	..	..	..	..	17	..
Measles		11	19	34	35	43	89	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	7	..
Whooping Cough ...	4	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Primary Pneumonia ...	4	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	4	..	..
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Erysipelas	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	..
Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Chicken Pox	8	1	1	3	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	2	1	1
Totals ...	304	14	21	39	43	48	113	11	6	5	2	1	1	7	41	1

There was an epidemic of measles in the early months of the year. The peak was reached during the month of March followed by a period of decline during the months of April and May.

The seven deaths from notifiable diseases during the year included one from Acute Poliomyelitis, two from Cerebro-Spinal Fever and four from Pneumonia.

There were no deaths from Diphtheria or Scarlet Fever during the same period.

There was no actual epidemic of diphtheria during the year. The cases were sporadic, occurring throughout the district and extending over the period from March to December. The five cases in September included two which occurred in a school where a healthy carrier was subsequently discovered. Four of these five cases lived in the same avenue.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Number of children immunised in 1942.

Under 5 years ... 263

Ages 5 to 15 years 209

Total 472

Percentage of children immunised on December 31st, 1942.

Ages 1 to 5 years 37%

Ages 5 to 15 years ... 50%

Since April, 1942, immunisation clinics have been held fortnightly instead of monthly. Appointments were made for the parents in order to eliminate the inconvenience of long periods of waiting at the clinic.

Every effort was made to persuade parents to have their children protected against diphtheria by immunisation, and by arrangement with the Lancashire County Council the services of the Health Visitor were utilised in this work.

Homes were visited and immunisation was energetically advocated at the Child Welfare Clinic. Stamped addressed postcards for signature were provided so as to cause the minimum of trouble to parents. Personal appeals were supplemented by the exhibition of posters and by the circularising of leaflets containing extracts from a broadcast speech on this subject by Sir Wilson Jameson, Chief Medical Officer to the Ministry of Health.

During the year a vigorous campaign was launched in the schools to secure the immunisation of children not previously immunised. The satisfactory response obtained was due, in no small measure, to the effective co-operation of the teachers, to whom we are grateful.

The percentage of immunised children in the district is not high enough to permit the position to be regarded with complacency. The occasional discovery of healthy carriers of virulent germs is an unpleasant reminder that constant vigilance is necessary and that immunisation is essential as an additional safeguard.

Unfortunately, however, it is a regrettable fact that the occurrence of an actual case of diphtheria still appears to be the most effective propaganda.

Table VIII.—Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1942

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0—1	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
1—5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—10	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
10—15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
15—20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20—25	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
25—35	2	3	2	...	1	1	...	...
35—45	1	...	3	1	...	...	...	...
45—55	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
55—65	3	1	...	...	4	2	1	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
Totals	7	4	6	4	6	3	1	...
	11		10		9		1	

PUBLIC HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS 1940-42.

These require particulars of all persons of certain specified age groups whose names are, or have been, on the Tuberculosis Register to be furnished to the Ministry of Labour. This information is made available to the Medical Boards examining candidates for enlistment in His Majesty's Forces.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Ambulance Facilities and Hospital Arrangements—

There has been no change during the year in these arrangements.

Child Welfare Centre—

Clinics are held weekly on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons at the Village School.

DENTAL TREATMENT.

Dr. Kershaw, Dental Surgeon to the Lancashire County Council, has kindly given advice and treatment to many babies and expectant mothers attending the Child Welfare Centre. The attendance of Royton babies, school children and mothers were 1,701.

EMERGENCY SUPPLY OF ANTI-TOXIN.

Diphtheria anti-toxin serum is kept at the Police Station and supplied in cases of emergency to Medical Practitioners in this District upon request at any time.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Arrangements for biological, bacteriological, and chemical examinations exist with the Public Health Laboratory, York Place, Manchester.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

List of Adoptive Acts relating to Public Health in force in the district with date of adoption.

The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890
(From 1st October, 1891)
repealed in part by P.H.A., 1936.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890
(From 1st October, 1891)
repealed in part by P.H.A., 1936.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907
(From 16th January, 1914)
Part (2) Streets and Buildings
repealed in part by P.H.A., 1936.
Part (4) Infectious Diseases
repealed in part by P.H.A., 1936.
Part (6) Recreation Grounds.

The Public Health Act, 1925
(From 1st March, 1926)
Part (2) Streets and Buildings
repealed in part by P.H.A., 1936.

ROYTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1942.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
ROYTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report relating to the sanitary circumstances of the area and the progress made during the year 1942.

In spite of wartime difficulties and the great amount of time given up to civil defence and duties other than public health work, much was accomplished during the year.

The welfare of the public of Royton received priority in my endeavours to secure and maintain that degree of comfort to which they are entitled and expect. I refer in the main to housing repairs, the achievement of which, through lack of man power and materials, proved no easy task. One looks forward to the day when the housing problem can once again be taken up with all speed.

On 13th April, 1942, Dr. H. Boardman, your present Medical Officer of Health, took over duties from Dr. J. W. Pickup, who left the district to take up an appointment under the Essex County Council. In Dr. Pickup's departure I lost a valuable adviser to whom I could at all times turn for guidance and support, but I am happy to say that in Dr. Boardman I found those same qualities which characterised his predecessor.

May I express to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, the Medical Officer of Health, the Clerk to the Council, the Surveyor and Staff, my appreciation and thanks for their continued assistance and co-operation during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E. DUNSMORE,

Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION I.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(1) Water Supply.

The piped water supply of the Oldham County Borough Council covers the greater part of the district of Royton. This piped supply is subject to chlorination.

A new supply was provided in lieu of an unsatisfactory well supply at one farm house. This was the subject of a statutory notice served in 1941.

(2) Drainage and Sewerage.

There was no important extension of sewerage during the year.

(3) Rivers and Streams.

Regular inspections were made and cleansing carried out as required.

(4) Sanitary Accommodation.

The following table gives details of the sanitary accommodation in the district at the end of 1942.

Fresh Water Closets	3930	Cesspools	nil
Waste Water Closets	932	Dustbins	4811
Privy Middens	nil	Dry Ashpits	22
Pail Closets	49		

Conversions—Five waste water closets were converted to fresh water closets.

(5) Public Cleansing.

The method of disposal continued to be that known as the biological or controlled system of tipping.

Controlled tipping commenced in Royton Park to serve the double purpose of refuse disposal and of levelling up the playground.

The three tips in use were situated at Dogford Road, Royton Park and Moss Lane.

Collecting motor vehicles numbered 2 full-time and 1 part-time.

The number of loads collected per week averaged 46, weighing approximately 69 tons 13 cwt. 1 qr., giving a total figure for the year ended December, 1942, of 3,622 tons 18 cwt. collected.

During the year the Council decided that a stock of dustbins should be kept in the Town's Yard for sale to owners wishing to purchase. This decision was welcomed by many who were experiencing great difficulty in obtaining delivery. Good use was made of the facilities provided.

(6) Sanitary Inspections during 1942 (including Housing).

During the course of the year the following nuisances or defects which were reported upon month by month to the Health Committee were dealt with. Out of a total of 352 nuisances listed in the Inspector's Journal, 347 were remedied in a satisfactory manner within the year.

They may be summarised as follows:—

Blocked drains	74
Defective drains and pedestals, etc.....	48
Defective ash receptacles	105
Defective downspouts and gutters	16
Dampness and flooding	12
Accumulations	5
Dirty Houses	8
Other housing defects	60
Burst water pipes	8
Miscellaneous	16

Total 352

To secure the remedy of these defects, 140 letters, 115 formal notices and 18 statutory notices were served upon owners or agents in addition to numerous interviews.

(7) Shops and Offices.

No action was taken during 1942 to enforce the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to the ventilation and temperature of shops, etc., and to sanitary conveniences.

Likewise, no action under the Public Health Act, 1936, was taken relating to conditions in Offices, i.e., ventilation, sanitary conveniences, etc.

(8) Camping Sites (other than Military).

No sites were used for this purpose for any extended period, making the issue of licences under the Public Health Act, 1936, unnecessary.

(9) Smoke Abatement.

The provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936 were suspended during the year due to wartime conditions.

(10) Swimming Baths.

The public swimming baths in the centre of the district continued to be well patronised.. The filtered and chlorinated water was tested at frequent intervals for the determination of residual chlorine.

(11) Eradication of Vermin.

Advice was given by the writer to tenants. During the year four verminous houses were disinfected at the owners' expense.

(12) Schools.

These were visited and reports on three inspections relating to unsanitary conditions were passed to the appropriate authority for attention.

(13) Offensive Trades.

None of these specified trades exist in the area.

(14) Factories Act, 1937.

(a) Factories (including factory bakehouses).

At the end of the year the number of factories in the district was 103. Of this number 85 were factories with mechanical power and 18 were factories without mechanical power.

One hundred and twelve inspections were made.

In nineteen instances defects or non-compliance with the regulations were noted. Six defects were remedied during the year. The remainder were of a structural character and relate chiefly to conveniences not being conveniently accessible to all persons while employed at the factory. The firms concerned have been acquainted by letter of the requirements with which it is expected they will comply when circumstances permit.

(b) Bakehouse Provisions.

At the end of the year the bakehouses in the district numbered 40. Of this number 27 were entered in the register under factory bakehouses. Fifty-eight visits were made. They were generally well kept and complied with special provisions of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, Sec. 156 and 157, relating to bakehouses which are incorporated in the Factories Act, 1937.

During the year one defective bakehouse floor was concreted. One additional W.C. was installed at another bakehouse to provide separate accommodation for the sexes. In another instance a drain ventilating into adjoining premises was provided with a self-cleansing gulley-trap.

One basement bakehouse in use in the district is subject to license by the Urban District Council and to review each successive fifth year.

(15) Common Lodging-Houses.

The two common lodging-houses received regular visits and were kept in good repair.

Two Keepers were registered during the year, but the keeper of the common lodging-house at No. 3, High Street was refused renewal of his licence at the year end as not being a fit person to act as a keeper.

(16) Tents, Vans and Sheds, etc.

No action required during 1942.

(17) Underground Sleeping Rooms.

Housing Act, 1936, Sec. 12(2)

Two exist and will be dealt with as soon as housing conditions permit.

SECTION 2.

HOUSING.

(1) Statistics for the Year 1942.

Number of New Houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	2
(1) By the Local Authority (completed)	2
(2) By other Local Authorities	nil
(3) By other bodies or persons	nil
(b) With State Assistance under the Housing Acts:—	
(1) By the Local Authority (completed)	2
(2) By other bodies or persons.....	nil

Housing Act 1936.

Notices served:—

Section 9	1
-----------------	---

The Council subsequently purchased by agreement the dwelling-house known as Elly Clough House, to which the above notice referred, and carried out the repairs scheduled in the notice.

(2) General Observations as to Housing Conditions.

Housing work under the Housing Acts was practically at a standstill, but it will be seen from the list of nuisances and defects itemised under Section 1 (6) of this report that the Public Health Act, 1936, proved very useful in securing compliance with requirement to maintain a minimum standard.

Much difficulty was experienced in securing execution of repairs to property and this increased towards the end of the year.

(3) Housing Schemes.

Milton Street Housing Site—Two houses were completed during the year.

(4) Overcrowding.

The position in this respect was not exactly known, but could not be considered serious.

At the end of 1942 only four addresses remained on the list of legally overcrowded houses, but only a survey of the district would reveal the true position.

(5) Clearance and Improvement Areas.

No areas dealt with.

SECTION 3.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(1) Milk Supply.

One hundred inspections were made under the Milk and Dairies Regulations at the twenty-one dairy farms where approximately 315 cows are housed.

A number of repairs or improvements were carried out to farm buildings, such as repairs to dairy walls, windows, roofs, shippin floors and channels, the estimated cost of which amounted to £120.

Seventy-two milk purveyors, including local cowkeepers are registered to deliver milk in the area.

The following samples were taken during the year:—

(1) Tuberculous Milk—

Number of samples submitted for biological test 15

Result—Negative 9. Positive 6.

The positive results were reported to the Lancashire County Council for further investigation and action.

(2) Bacteriological Examinations—

Number of Samples.....14.

Result—Satisfactory 10. Unsatisfactory 4.

The four samples classed “unsatisfactory” failed to pass a standard of not more than 200,000 bacteria per c.c. and no coliform bacilli in 1/100 c.c. Of these four samples two were from local dairymen.

One application to sell milk wholesale was refused, the dairy not being considered suitable.

The Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938.

Supplementary Licences Granted.	
Tuberculin Tested.....	nil
Accredited	1
Pasteurised	2

(2) Meat and Other Foods.

During the year 138 visits were made to butchers' shops, bakehouses, and other food premises.

Ten slaughterhouses were licensed, but the slaughtering of animals for consumption in Royton continued to be controlled and executed at Oldham. Slaughtering in local slaughterhouses ceased on 14th January, 1940.

A total weight of $2\frac{1}{2}$ cwts. of meat and other foodstuffs were condemned during the year. This figure does not include the work of inspection at Government Buffer Depots, details of which are not included in this report.

No legal proceedings were taken.

No case of food poisoning was notified.

(3) Adulteration, etc.

The County Sanitary Officer kindly supplied the information that six milk samples were taken and all proved genuine.

Sampling under the Food and Drugs Act is carried out by Officers of the Lancashire County Council with my active co-operation and assistance.

SECTION 4.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Of the infectious diseases notified, 58 cases were investigated, and following recovery or removal to hospital, 152 rooms in 51 houses were disinfected with formaldehyde. Fifteen sets of bedding were steam disinfected at the Oldham County Borough disinfecting station.

